

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /107 W
----- 026689

R 141425Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5833

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1289

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S ME TRIP

1. SUMMARY. SURVEY OF LIMITED BUT REPRESENTATIVE CROSS-SECTION OF EAST JERUSALEM ARAB POPULATION INDICATES GENERALLY WARM AND HOPEFUL REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ME TRIP. OPINIONS, INCLUDING EDITORIALS IN LOCAL ARABIC DAILY EL QUDS, REFLECT OPTIMISM RANGING FROM CAUTIOUS TO ENTHUSIASTIC. ALL HOPE TRIP WILL HELP BRING LASTING PEACE TO AREA, WHICH MOST EMPHASIZE REQUIRES FOCUS NOW ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. EASE JERUSALEM ARABS CONTACTED DURING PAST FEW DAYS HAVE EXPRESSED GENERAL APPROVAL, OFTEN ENTHUSIASM, FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S ME TRIP. THEY VIEW TUMULTUOUS RECEPTION IN EGYPT AS INDICATION OF GENERAL ARAB APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS NIXON AND KISSINGER ARE MAKING TO BRING ABOUT PEACE SETTLEMENT. ATTITUDE IS ONE OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM, MAJOR CONCERN BEING WHETHER TRIP WILL BRING "JUS-

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TIOUS OPTIMISM, MAJOR CONCERN BEING WHETHER TRIP WILL BRING "JUS-

TICE FOR PALESTINIANS."

3. AUTO MECHANICI REMARKED HE HAD NOT KNOWN ONE MOMENT OF PEACE IN 43 YEARS IN PALESTINE BUT BELIEVED PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD BRING PEACE. SCHOOL TEACHER SAID NIXON HAD BECOME "DARLING" (HABIBIB) FO ARAB PEOPLE AND SHOPKEEPER DESCRIBED JERUSALEM AS LIGHT OF WORLD AND PRESIDENT AS LIGHT OF PEACE.

4. MORE SOBER BUT STILL POSITIVE REACTION REFLECTED IN EL QUDS EDITORIALS JUNE 12 NAD 13. PAPER CHARACTERIZED TRIP AS "RESULT" OF OCTOBER WAR IN THAT IT GREW OUT OF CHANGE OF POLICY WHICH EVENTS OF WAR FORCED US TO ADOPT. NEWSPAPER SAID IT DID NOT CALL ON ARABS TO RECIEVE NIXON AS FRIEND BUT AS ONE WHO HAS PERCIEVED ERRORS OF PAST AND NOW SEEKS TO FIND WAYS FOR REDRESSING INJUSTICES. INDICATION SOME CONCERN THAT TRIP MIGHT BE SIMPLY "SHOW" UNDERTAKEN FOR PESONAL INTEREST, EL QUDS ASSERTED US PRESIDENCY ABLE TO EXERT PERSSURE ON ALL PARTIES TO ME CONFLICT, ESPECIALLY ISRAEL AND JORDAN, AND PRESIDENT MUST BE AWARE OF NEED TO DEAL WITH PALESTINIAN PROBLEM NOT AS REFUGEE QUESTION BUT AS QUESTION OF PEOPLE THAT HAS LOST ITS RIGHTS AND HOMELAND. THIS PEOPLE MUST HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA TALKS AS INDEPENDENT PARTY WITH SAME RIGHTS AS OTHER PARTICIPANTS, EDITORIAL STATES. URGING NIXON TO CONVINCE ISRAEL OF THIS NEED IF PEACE TO BE ACHIEVED.

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